

## **Warren Mayor Fouts battles blight with more crime sweeps, too**

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The fight against blight isn't the only battle Warren Mayor Jim Fouts is waging to keep his city clean.

He's also getting tough on lawbreakers in high-crime neighborhoods.

The second phase of a crime sweep initiative, which Fouts kicked off in December, again will target the city's south end, this time stretching from 8 Mile to Stephens and from Hoover to Groesbeck.

Police officers will pay extra attention to traffic offenses and other minor offenses. Extra patrols will be assigned to schools, parks and other public gathering spots. The police's special operations unit also will be assigned to patrol these areas, according to a release from Fouts' office.

Officers also will be provided with updated training and ordinance information concerning issues that creep up during the summer, such as noise complaints, fireworks violations and basketball nets in the street.

The first phase of the crime sweep ran from Dec. 13 through the end of April from 8 Mile to Stephens and from Van Dyke to Hoover.

In that sweep, officers made 273 arrests and issued 24 moving violations, six parental responsibility violations, six violations for juveniles and 603 tickets for other offenses, according to the release.

Fouts said residents cooperated with police to report crimes or trouble spots during the first phase of the initiative.

"Blight begets blight. The fight against crime — they work hand in hand," Fouts said during an interview about his blight and crime sweep initiatives.

